

CLAIMS

1. A P2P service method, comprising the steps of:
receiving a download request to download a predetermined file stored in a
5 shared folder from another information processor;
receiving member information including the type of a member and a holding
point value held by the other information processor from the other information
processor;
determining, based on the member information, whether a user of the other
10 information processor is a free member;
if the user of the other information processor is the free member, comparing the
holding point value to a file point value corresponding to the size of the file; and
if the holding point value is larger than the file point value, transferring the file
to the other information processor.
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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
generating a control signal to decrease the holding point value corresponding to
the user of the other information processor by the file point value.
- 20 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
transferring the file to the other information processor if the user of the other
information processor is a paid member;
determining whether the user of a shared information processor holding the
shared folder is a free member; and
25 increasing a holding point value corresponding to the user of the shared
information processor by the file point value if the user of the shared information
processor is the free member.
4. A method of providing a P2P service in a collecting information processor
30 including a collecting folder, comprising the steps of:
permitting an upload request from another information processor to the
collecting folder with respect to a predetermined file;

receiving the file and storing the same in the collecting folder;

receiving member information including the type of a member and a holding point value held by the other information processor from the other information processor;

5 determining, based on the member information, whether the user of the other information processor is a free member;

if the user of the other information processor is a paid member, determining whether the user of the collecting information processor is a free member; and

10 generating a control signal to decrease a holding point value corresponding to the user of the collecting information processor by a file point value corresponding to the size of the file if the user of the collecting information processor is the free member.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

15 if the user of the other information processor is the free member, determining whether the user of the collecting information processor holding the collecting folder is the free member; and

if the user of the collecting information processor is a paid member, generating a control signal to increase a holding point value corresponding to the user of the other information processor by a file point value corresponding to the size of the file.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

if the user of the other information processor is the free member, determining whether the user of the collecting information processor holding the collecting folder is the free member; and

25 if the user of the collecting information processor is the free member, generating a control signal to decrease the holding point value corresponding to the user of the collecting information processor by the file point value corresponding to the size of the file.

30 7. A method of providing a P2P service in a first information processor, comprising the steps of:

setting up the maximum simultaneous connection number of information

processors that can be simultaneously connected to use the P2P service, to the first information processor;

receiving a connection request to the first information processor from a second information processor;

5 determining whether the number of information processors connected to the first information processor matches the maximum simultaneous connection number;

if the number of the information processors connected to the first information processor matches the maximum simultaneous connection number, identifying whether a user of the second information processor is a paid member;

10 identifying whether there is a free member among the users of the information processors connected to the first information processor; and

if the user of the second information processor is a paid member and there is a free member among the users of the information processors connected to the first information processor, terminating the connection of the free member's information processor, and allowing the connection of the second information processor.

8. A method of providing a P2P service in a first information processor, comprising the steps of:

20 setting up the maximum simultaneous connection number of information processors that can be simultaneously connected to use the P2P service, to a first information processor;

receiving a connection request to the first information processor from a second information processor;

25 determining whether the number of information processors connected to the first information processor matches the maximum simultaneous connection number;

if the number of the information processors connected to the first information processor matches the maximum simultaneous connection number, identifying member class information of users of the information processors connected to the first information processor and the second information processor; and

30 if there are lower order users having a lower membership class than that of the user of the second information processor among the users of the information processors connected to the first information processor, terminating connection of the lower order

user's information processor and permitting the connection of the second information processor.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of terminating the connection of the lower order user's information processor comprises the steps of:

if there are a plurality of lower order users, discriminating the lowest order user having the lowest membership class among the lower order users; and
blocking the connection of the lowest order user's information processor.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of blocking the connection of the lowest order user's information processor comprises:

if there are a plurality of the lowest order users, discriminating the last connected information processor among the lowest order users' information processors; and
blocking the connection of the last connected information processor.

11. A method of providing a P2P service in a P2P server, comprising the steps of:
if a second information processor is not connected to the P2P server, receiving a download request to download a file stored in the second information processor from a first information processor;

storing the download request in a given storage device;
receiving a connection request from the second information processor;
if the first information processor is not connected to the P2P server and the download request to download the file stored in the second information processor to the first information processor is stored in the given storage device, downloading the file stored in the second information processor to the P2P server in response to the connection request from the second information processor; and
transferring the file downloaded by the P2P server to the first information processor in response to the connection request from the first information processor.

12. A method of providing a P2P service in a mobile communication terminal, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a connection request to a P2P server;

transmitting a search request to search for files stored in a shared folder of an information processor of which the connection is established to the P2P server;

receiving a search result from the P2P server responsive to the search request;

selecting files among files contained in the search result;

5 selecting a second information processor to which the selected files will be transferred; and

transmitting a control signal for enabling the selected files to be sent to the second information processor.

10 13. A P2P service method, comprising the steps of:

storing community information on users subscribed to communities on a community-by-community basis;

establishing and providing shared channels corresponding to the communities, respectively;

15 if an information processor establishes a connection to a P2P server, discriminating a community to which a user of the information processor is subscribed, based on the community information; and

displaying information on the user of the information processor on a shared channel corresponding to the community to which the user of the information processor is subscribed.

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14. A P2P service method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a relay application to relay file transmission and reception between other information processors, and category information from a relay information processor;

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storing an IP address corresponding to the relay information processor and the category information in a relay database;

if a first information processor attempts a direct connection to a second information processor and then fails the direct connection, receiving from the first information processor a request to transmit and receive files to and from the second information processor;

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receiving file category information to which files transmitted and received

between the first and second information processors belong;

searching for category information that matches the file category information from the relay database; and

transmitting an IP address of the relay information processor corresponding to the searched category information to the first and second information processors.

15. A computer-readable recording medium on which a program is recorded, the program implementing the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14 on a computer.

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16. A system for providing a P2P service in an information processor, comprising:
an input unit for receiving one or more categories corresponding to a folder if the folder is registered on a shared folder of the information processor;

a storage unit for storing one or more categories corresponding to the folder;

15 a search unit for searching for folders stored in the storage unit and corresponding to a given category when receiving a search request to search for the folders corresponding to the given category from another information processor; and

a transmitting unit for transmitting a list of the searched folders to the other information processor.

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17. The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the transmitting unit further transmits a search request to search for folders positioned in a shared folder of the other information processor and belonging to a given category,

the system further comprises:

25 a receiving unit for receiving the list of the folders from the other information processor in response to the search request; and

a control unit for making the folders to be displayed in different shapes on a category-by-category basis when the list of the folders is displayed.

30 18. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the storage unit further stores user information including the age of the user of the information processor,

if there exists a folder corresponding to an age limit category for limiting an use

permissible age among the list of the folders, and the user of the information processor is determined to be of less than the use permissible age based on the user information,

the control unit performs control so that the folder belonging to the age limit category is not displayed.